RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 30th November, 2005/9 Agrahayana, 1927 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Implementation of power projects

*101. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:†
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether of the 44 power projects under implementation currently, 39 projects are slated to come up by the first year of the Eleventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, whether 5 projects are reported to be facing constraints in timely commissioning;

(c) the total projects that are being completed within the stipulated period of time and how many will be there which will not be completed;

(d) whether any guidelines had been issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to the Ministry of Power in this regard; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken by the Ministry of Power to implement suggestions made by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) No, Sir. In the month of May, 2005, out of the 313 projects costing Rs. 100 crore and above being monitored by Ministry of Statistics

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Ambika Soni.

and Programme Implementation (MOS&PI), 44 projects pertained to power sector. Out of this, 31 projects were expected to be completed in 10th Plan, 12 projects are slated to come in the 11th Plan and the remaining 1 is currently under hold. Out of the 31 projects to be completed in 10th Plan, 8 have since commissioned.

However, as per the monitoring being done in the Ministry of Power, at present 71 Central Sector power projects with a total cost of Rs. 1,31,670 crore are under execution. Out of these projects, 31 pertain to generation segment and remaining 40 to transmission sector. Out of these projects, 31 are to be completed within X Plan and remaining 40 are likely to be commissioned in the XI Plan.

Out of the 71 projects under execution under the Central Sector, 6 projects have reported time overrun. Out of this, 4 are expected to be commissioned within X Plan and remaining 2 would be completed in the XI Plan.

No guidelines have been issued to the Ministry of Power in this regard by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. However, following measures have been adopted for timely commissioning of the power generation projects:—

- The monitoring mechanism has been strengthened.
- The CEA has a nodal officer for each project, both at the conception stage as well as during execution.
- Regular reivew meetings are being organized in the Ministry of Power with a view to identifying problems and facilitating their resolution.

The average execution time for power projects has declined in the country.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I have gone through the statement given by the hon. Minister. Of course, it is given in a very convoluted manner, but it says almost the same thing that I had asked in my question. I would like to ask, in continuation, from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that there are many States and Union Territories, which are facing great shortage of power. There is a big gap between demand and supply, as you know, Sir. I want to know if the generation of power from hydel resources has been reached to its maximum and optimum capacity; if it has, is the Government considering using other sources like nuclear resources, nuclear power or gas for generating power? If so, how would the cost compare with power generation from hydel resources?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, at the very outset, let me clarify to the hon. Member that in the report of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, there are 44 projects. Only nine projects have been shown with delay of one year or more. Sir, out of these nine, the following four have already been commissioned:- Western Region Load Despatch Centre; Eastern Region Load Despatch Centre; Madurai-Trivandrum 400 KV Transmission Line; and Dhauliganga Hydroelectric Project. The remaining five projects are Dulhasti, Tehri Dam, Kaiga-Nagendra Transmission System and Dhauliganga Hydroelectricity.

Sir, I am happy to inform the hon. Members that in all these cases there are positive results. Dulhasti is likely to be commissioned in May, 2006. In the Tehri Project, impounding of reservoir has started and the project is likely to be commissioned by March 2006. The Kaiga-Nagendra Transmission System has already been commissioned in October, 2005.

Sir, the Tala-Siliguri Transmission Line would be commissioned and it would be aligned with the commissioning of Tala-Bhutan Hydroelectric Project in mid-2006. The Tehri Transmission System is ready and will evacuate power to Tehri when commissioned in March 2006.

Sir, coming to the main question, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has mentioned 44 projects where there has been a delay of one year or more. These pertain to the power sector and that is why I have mentioned them. As for the hon. Member's question regarding maximum utilisation of hydroelectric projects for power generation, our potential is already assessed at one lakh and fifty thousand megawatts. out of which we have to take up 50,000 megawatt projects under the Eleventh Plan and beyond. So, this is the position.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I am sure the hon. Minister does realise that the demand is much greater than the supply. Now, I would like to talk of Punjab in this connection. The growth rate of demand for power in Punjab is 8 per cent and the 17th Electric Power Survey projected that in 2011-12, Punjab would require 13,382 megawatts. Now, they have 5096 megawatts. So, they need 8,480 megawatts more. The Secretary Power, in a meeting in which he was reviewing this, had promised the Government of Punjab to give 50 per cent of their additional demand from the Central sources and 50 per cent the Government of Punjab would have to make up for itself. Sir, that would amount to around 17,000 megawatts which is not enough. I would like to remind the hon. Minister and request him to be a bit more generous hearted for Punjab. After the reorganisation of Punjab, it has no

natural resources like coal or gas and even hydel resources were allocated to Himachal. When the hon. Prime Minister went to Punjab, he promised that NTPC would set up a Central sector project for the State of Punjab. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when this project will come up, how much power it will generate and till the time whether the Government of India can subsidise Punjab with a bit more than what they are doing now in the need for power for Punjab. We want more power. Will you give us more power till such time when you put up the Central project?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, I am indeed grateful to hon. Member for bringing in this matter of delay in the execution of project. As you know, Sir, we have started ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the question.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: With regard to Punjab, we have always been trying to help them and I have discussed specific problems of Punjab with the Chief Minister and also with Ambikaji. We have our own difficulties. We have firm allotment to each State from the Central sector and we have our own discretionary quota only to the tune of 4000 megawatts. As far as she has already mentioned about Punjab, I will definitely take into account this, and whatever way we can help, we will help Punjab.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: As per the statement of the hon. Minister on 20th October in Economic Times, almost 7000 megawatt power projects costing Rs. 25,000 crores are stranded because of lack of fuel. So, I would like to know, even though the hon. Minister has given instructions to the Secretary-Power and coordinating company members to sort it out, how they are going to do it if this gas scarcity is not sorted out. Are they going to choose any other option? Secondly, the existing power projects in States like Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat are already suffering due to lack of gas allocation. I would like to know as to what efforts the Ministry is going to take on these two existing as well as future projects.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, I do not know whether this question comes within the framework of the main question. As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, fuel shortage is there. Here in the power sector, we have lost to the tune of 15 billion units and, therefore, now whatever he has asked for the exploration of fuel for his State, we will try to take up with concerned Ministry.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as total power capacity addition is concerned, in the Tenth Five Year Plan, if I am not mistaken, it

is 41,000 MW. All these years, during the last Nine Five Year Plans, we have never exceeded 20,000 to 25,000 MW. This time, this Government has been telling, which is quite good news, that they will achieve the target of 35,000 MW, if not the full 41,000 MW, which will be a very good thing. But, still as far as the execution part is concerned, I am afraid whether you will be able to reach the target of 35,000 MW, which will be a good addition. Here is my only point of submission, through you, to the Minister and, Sir, I want your help also. Now, one of the major points is that this time, cost and delays etc., can be reduced because most of these projects are being undertaken by the public sector. Out of 41,000 MW, 37,000 MW is being undertaken by the public sector. Ten years back, a recommendation was there when Shri Jaswat Singhji, the Leader of the Opposition was the Chairman, that NTPC, NHPC and BHEL should form a consortium and they should get bids for these power projects so that the time and cost can be reduced. Till now, it has not happened. Will the Minister consult the Prime Minister, if necessary, on this issue? और, सर, उस कमेटी में वह भी थे और हमारे राजस्थान के दूसरे महारथी भी थे विश्व चरण माथुर जी। आप हैं चेयर पर, सब रथियों के महारथी, मैं आपके थ्रू फिर से सरकार से कहूंगा। Whether the Government will consider formation of a consortium of NTPC, NHPC and BHEL for these power bids by the public sector so that time and cost overrun can be reduced.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the first part with regard to the achievement of the target of the Tenth Five Year Plan, I can assure the Member and the House as well that for the first time, we will be crossing - likely to cross at least, 35,000 MW. It is because of shortage of coal and gas, otherwise we would have achieved 100 per cent.

Sir, as far as his second question on forming of a consortium is concerned, at this juncture, I can only say that it is a good suggestion.

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: सर वह तो दस साल से सजेशन ही हो रहा है। प्रणब जी बैठे हैं, यह दस साल से सजेशन है। Sir, it is the recommendation given by the Standing Committee ten years back. Would you kindly see, Sir?

श्री सभापति: सजेशन बहुत अच्छा है, लेकिन इनको जानकारी नहीं है।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: आप थोड़ा सरकार को बोलिए, सर।

श्री सभापति: हां, मैं बोलूंगा।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: सर, दो सरकारें चली गईं।

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Sir, I would like to as the hon. Minister about the Dulhasti Project which was started 23 years ago. Mrs. Gandhi then said, 'it will be completed in five years'. I would like to know as to what is the present position of that project.

Secondly, Sir, I handed over seven projects to the Central Government for implementation. I would like to know as to what is the position of those projects. We have the water but nothing seems to be coming out of that. Would you be kind enough to inform this House and the nation as to what is the position of that, when do you think that those seven projects that have been handed over to the Central Government would be completed and also as to when the Dulhasti project would be completed.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, just a little while ago while answering the first question, I have said that Dulhasti is likely to commission in May, 2006. The second question that he has raised is with regard to some projects. Yes, it is there. It is being examined. As the State of Jammu and Kashmir is specially favoured, we will do that.

DR. M.S. GILL: Sir, would the hon. Minister indicate, out of 71 Central projects costing Rs. 1,32,000 crore, how many projects, particularly, gas or coal based, have been allotted to the State of Punjab. In fact, he might even like to indicate whether in the last twenty years, any power project, big or small, related to transmission or manufacturing has been allotted to the State of Punjab.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, like Pubjab, there are many States where Central power projects have not reached. I am in agreement with him. The other day, when the hon. Prime Minister went there, he also mentioned about it. With regard to 71 projects, which he has mentioned, I will collect more details and pass it on to him, if you permit, Sir.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री महोदय से मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि 9 परियोजनाएं, जो इन्होंने कही हैं कि उनमें एक वर्ष की देरी हो रही है, तो इस टाइम ओवर रन का इन 9 परियोजनाओं में क्या कारण है? दूसरा भाग, इससे प्राइस ऐस्कलेशन, इन 9 परियोजनाओं में देरी होने के कारण, क्या होगा और उससे बिजली की लागत कीमत में कितनी बढ़ोत्तरी हो जाएगी? कृपया यह बताने का कष्ट करें।

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, I would like to highlight that power projects, by very nature, are long-gestation-period projects. So, in the case of this time overrun, a number of reasons are given. In the case of these nine projects, you can see, transmission lines and the hydro projects. I will

first deal only with the transmission lines. Four projects are in the transmission line. Sir, these are not delayed. These are re-scheduled. Why is it so? Because, if the transmission line is constructed and the money is blocked there, cost will be more and the consumer will have to pay more. Therefore, it was re-scheduled to see that the five projects which are going to be generating projects, are completed. Accordingly, we have given the schedule. That was the reason.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: माननीय सभापति महोदय, एक बात ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: नहीं, नहीं, बैठिए।

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: सभापति महोदय, मैंने तीन भागों में बड़ा स्पष्ट सवाल किया था।

श्री सभापति: नहीं, नहीं, मैं अलाऊ नहीं कर रहा। बोलिए, श्री एन॰ जोती।

SHRI N. JOTHI: Hon. Chairman, Sir, there is an admission on the part of the Minister that there are heavy delays in implementing the projects. He has further admitted that there are no guidelines issued to the Ministry of Power with respect to the concerned Ministries. Sir, while conceiving or executing the power projects, the execution mostly, if it is a State project, is done by the State Governments, whereas, the clearance has to come from the concerned Ministries. We have experienced in Tamil Nadu, until the Supreme Court came to our rescue, the clearance was not given by the Environment and Forest Ministry for nearly over three years on a small point of transmission permission. The Forest Department should have given it. Only the Supreme Court came to our rescue. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will have any time-bound programme so that the clearance of this nature does not come forth and the project will be cleared automatically. Will he venture upon that? This is what I would like to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, I am not the only one to decide it finally. The Ministry of Environment and Forest is there. So many other factors are also there, as the hon. Member must be knowing. Now, he said that no guidelines were issued. This too is there in my reply. In the main reply that I have mentioned, a question was asked whether the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation had issued any directions to us, to the Ministry of Power, we said, "No". So, that is the status.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question, Dr. Karan Singh.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, हमारी तरफ भी देखिए।

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I have a small question ...(*Interruptions*)...

Non-utilisation of funds under SGSY

*102. DR. KARAN SINGH:†
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have failed to spend funds allocated to Sampoorna Gramin Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, whether Centre allocated Rs. 1000 crore for the programme upto June this year which was twice the sum allocated last year, but only Rs. 469.56 crore of this was released and even paltry Rs. 61.94 crore was used;

(c) what are the main reasons for failure in utilization of funds under SGSY and the agencies responsible for this;

(d) what action has been taken against the said agencies; and

(e) what are the steps taken to fully utilize the funds allocated for SGSY during the remaining period of 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) SGSY is not Sampoorna Gramin Swarozgar Yojana but it is Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana. It is a self-employment scheme aims at establishing a large number of micro enterprises in rural areas based on the ability of the poor and potential of each area. The objective of the scheme is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by organizing them into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and providing them income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. The scheme is financed on 75:25 cost sharing basis between the Centre and the States. Funds under the scheme are released directly to District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs).

Government have not failed to spend funds allocated under SGSY. Central allocation of funds during current financial year (2005-06) for Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is Rs. 1000.00 crore which is the same as allocated during 2004-05. Release of funds under Swaranjayanti Gram

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Karan Singh.